



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT
251 Causeway Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02114-2136
(617) 626-1200 FAX: (617) 626-1240

June 7, 2013

Kristen Conroy
U.S. EPA New England Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Mailcode ORA01-1
Boston, MA 02109-3912

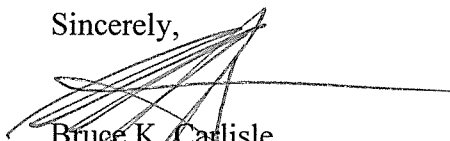
RE: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection 2013 Wetland Program
Development Grant Proposal "WETLAND MONITORING and ASSESSMENT; CLIMATE
CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY; and WETLAND RESTORATION and
VULNERABLE WETLANDS OUTREACH"

Dear Ms. Conroy:

The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) would like to commit its full support to the partnership outlined in the proposal prepared by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) in response to EPA's FY13 Wetland Program Development Grants. The proposal developed by MassDEP is entitled "Wetland Monitoring and Assessment; Climate Change Adaptation Strategy; and Wetland Restoration and Vulnerable Wetlands Outreach". CZM, MassDEP, and researchers at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst have been collaborating for several years on efforts to develop methods for the assessment of condition in wetlands of the Commonwealth using biological condition and GIS-based assessment tools to address the three Levels of Monitoring and Assessment contained in EPA's *Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program for Wetlands* (April 2006).

CZM will be receiving funding through this proposal and will continue to provide technical support and collaboration, based on this work plan, to support the Actions contained in the Massachusetts Wetland Program Plan (revised and pending approval 2013), including development of statewide **Monitoring and Assessment Strategy, Regulations, and Water Quality Standards for Wetlands**. CZM will be directly involved and will lead efforts for salt marsh wetlands sampling as a part of MassDEP's effort to incorporate wetland sampling into its rotating watershed basin assessment program in 2015. CZM believes that these efforts, together with current work being led by CZM for salt marshes, will ultimately result in a comprehensive tool for assessing and monitoring wetland condition that advances wetlands protection and meets federal obligations to assess the condition of the nation's wetlands.

Sincerely,



Bruce K. Carlisle
Director

